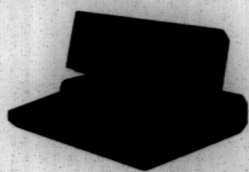


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The new policy for public service

Christian pro-lifers need not apply. That's the message a great many people across the country are concluding is really behind last week's rejection by the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee of Charles Pickering's nomination to the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans.

Pickering, a U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi and a member of First Church, Laurel, is a former two-term president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention (MBC). He has also served in a number of other MBC capacities, including as parliamentarian at the convention's annual meeting.

He served on the Southern Baptist Convention's Peace Committee many years ago when that group was active.

Pickering was nominated last year for the appellate post by President George W. Bush and awarded an exemplary rating by the American Bar Association. With his solid academic, professional, and civic credentials, he should have been a shoo-in for the job.

That is, until an unseemly coalition of baby killers and other extremist special interest groups took it upon themselves to prove him unfit for the lifetime appointment to the appeals court.

By the time Pickering's hearings convened before the Judiciary Committee, he had been characterized as a racist, an inept jurist, and a Neanderthal bent on turning back women's rights — including the "right to choose," which is known in the real world as the infanticide of abortion.

Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest and most lucrative abortion provider, had this to say: "If the nomination of Judge Pickering is an indication of what we can expect with future Bush administration judicial nominees, then all his candidates should come with a warning label: 'Beware... May Be Hazardous to Women's Health and Civil Rights.'"

"We need judges committed to justice for women, not ideologues dedicated to turning back the clock," stressed Kim

Gandy, president of the decidedly pro-abortion National Organization for Women (NOW).

Senators opposed to Pickering's nomination dispatched investigators to Mississippi to dig up dirt, even requesting The Baptist Record provide the texts of Pickering's presidential addresses at the Mississippi Baptist Convention annual meetings.

The results were predictable. By the time of last Thursday's vote, all 10 Democrats in the majority on the committee were prepared to vote against Pickering's nomination.

To kill the nomination, however, they first had to poison Pickering's reputation. In order to do that, they had resort to half-truths, out-of-context mischaracterizations, and personal destruction.

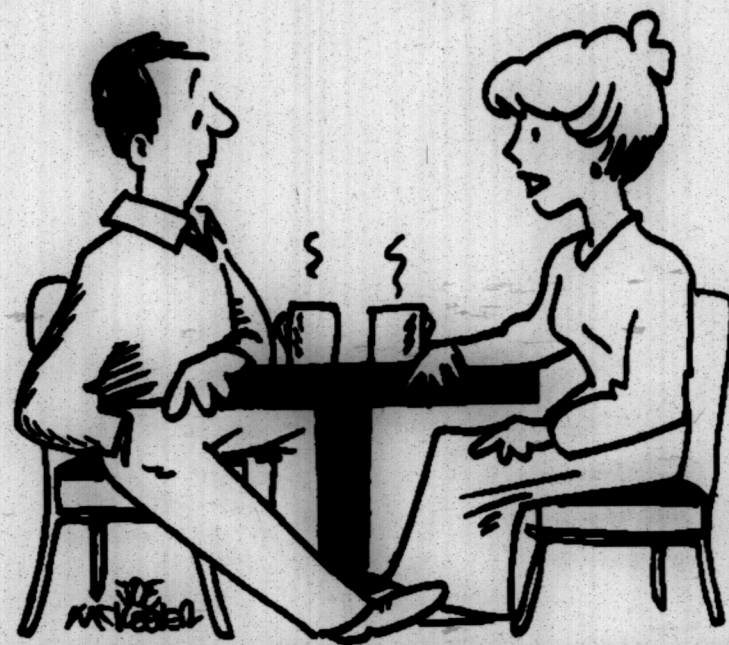
At one point, they even quoted one-half of a sentence in a Pickering ruling without quoting the second half, when doing so would have demolished their contention that he was unfit to serve as an appellate judge.

Another opposing senator complained of Pickering's high reversal rate when his rulings were appealed — until one of his colleagues pointed out that Pickering's reversal rate was below the national average for all federal judges.

Senator Richard Durbin (D-Ill.), cut right to the chase, flatly stating that Pickering's manhandling by the committee was payback for the way Republicans abused Democratic former President Bill Clinton's judicial nominees when Republicans were in the majority.

After the nomination went down to defeat 10-9, however, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss.), speaking for

**"WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF I TOLD
YOU I'VE DECIDED TO BECOME
PART OF THE ANSWER FOR AMERICA
AND NOT ANOTHER OF ITS PROBLEMS?"**



the record on the floor of the Senate, made it clear that underneath the thin veneer of political excuses offered by the committee was the real reason for Pickering's rejection: his deep religious convictions.

Lott's observation is correct, but he could have added that opponents' animosity for Pickering's faith was matched by their animosity for his pro-life positions. That combination was simply too much for 10 senators to stomach.

So let the message go forth from the U.S. Senate that when it comes to public service, *Christian pro-lifers need not apply.*

If we're not happy with that policy — and we certainly shouldn't be — we need to speak up and start working to change it.

Are you ready? Now is not the time to stand on the sidelines.

GUEST OPINION:

*Join us and pray
for missionaries*

*By Wanda Lee, Exec. Dir.
Woman's Missionary Union*



Throughout my involvement in Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), I have heard many missionaries state how much they depend on WMU for faithful praying.

One missionary even said, "If the WMU stops praying, I'm coming home."

Praying for missionaries has always been a key emphasis of WMU. In 1997, the national WMU Executive Board adopted nine statements that articulate the foundational truths for all we do in WMU. We refer to these as our Core Values.

Core Values are those things that an organization feels are at the heart of who it is and why it exists. That is true of WMU and praying for missionaries, so we identified this as one of our core values: "We embrace the strategic role of prayer and giving for missionaries and missions needs."

For nearly 114 years, WMU members of all ages have prayed for missionaries in their meetings and worship, as well as during their personal quiet times.

Some of the earliest lists of strategic principles of WMU

describe praying for and giving to missions as a priority. It was assumed that what women prayed for they would also give their money to support.

Setting aside special weeks for prayer related to missions began in 1892 in connection with the Christmas offering suggested by Lottie Moon. The first Week of Prayer for Home Missions was held in 1895.

These early efforts for stirring up prayer support for missionaries were provided specifically for women. Their focus changed in 1956 as WMU reached out to the entire church to broaden the base of support for missions.

These churchwide efforts have

grown through the years and are a significant part of WMU planning for the church today.

In addition to the weeks of prayer, the most popular method for members is the Prayer Calendar, which was first used as far back as 1891. After sporadic printing as a separate piece, the calendar of prayer became a part of WMU publications in 1918.

Many other prayer emphases and prayer projects through the years have served to equip and call out faithful praying on behalf of missions.

What about the future? How can we reach the millions who are lost in our own country, much less around the world?

Minette Drumwright, who served for many years in the prayer office of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, has written a book for WMU entitled, *The Life That Prays*. She challenges us to take one step further in our commitment to praying for missions. She asks us to see prayer as a strategy for missions.

A strategy denotes planning and intentionality based on knowledge. Minette's personal experiences with prayer as a strategy validate God's desire to work in miraculous ways as we allow him to direct our praying.

Praying for missionaries and for the salvation of all the peoples of the world is at the heart of all we do through WMU. Join us as we embrace the strategic role of prayer and giving as a missions strategy.

WMU, an auxiliary of the Southern Baptist Convention with affiliates in most state Baptist conventions, is headquartered in Birmingham.

Upward Basketball catching on in 35 states

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Young athletes across the country are taking their game to a higher level with a Christian-based ministry that uses basketball as a tool to spread the Gospel — and while this private youth league for kids in grades one through six claims to be multi-faith, the Christian message is central.

"It is a ministry first and it's a basketball league second," said Upward Basketball spokesman Jordan Cox of the program, which is advertised as non-denominational even though a Baptist minister started it in Spartanburg, S.C.

A number of Mississippi Baptist churches signed up for the program, which ran from October of last year through February of this year. Accurate figures are not available for the total number of churches that participated.

Even kids with little or no exposure to the Gospel are invited to lace up with Upward Basketball, Cox told CNS-News.com. In fact, a major goal of this faith-based basketball program is to allow participating churches to "reach out" to people of different faiths in their community and possibly overseas. Cox said he's fielded inquiries about the program from at least 20 different countries over the last five months. Upward's curriculum, he noted, has been successfully



CALLING THE PLAY — Lisa Kuyrkendall (left) of Madison holds a strategy session with members of Lightning, her Upward Basketball team, during a time out in their game at the Family Life Center of Ridgecrest Church, Madison. Ridgecrest Church, where Kuyrkendall is a member, was one of several Mississippi Baptist churches that signed on this past season to host the increasingly popular Christian outreach ministry. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

adapted by Christian missionaries and greeted by foreign peoples with enthusiasm.

"A lot of people are willing to come in the gym door of the church [who] will never come in the front door," Cox said. "We want kids to know that Jesus loves them and that's why we're doing what we do."

Upward Basketball has a mission, but it is not an attempt to "shove anything down anybody's throat," Cox said. Rather, "We're just trying to expose

them to the God who created this universe [who] has a plan for their lives and loves them."

Upward Basketball's evangelical message appears to be popular with the kids.

Participation in the basketball program — which receives no tax dollars but does charge a reasonable per-child fee — has grown to more than 140,000 kids in 35 states and more than 740 churches since it expanded beyond Spartanburg in 1995.

Cox expects to add more than 200 programs nationwide by 2003, boosting enrollment beyond 175,000 kids.

Cox said the program and its coaches are "not force-feeding anything to people that they're not ready for." However, one element of the Upward Basketball program isn't typical of other leagues — namely, mandatory "devotions."

Cox said the young players are required to participate in devotions during breaks at practice. The one-hour, once-a-

week team practice times typically stop midway through for the devotion and recitation of Bible verses.

Cox acknowledged the possibility that a child or parent might express concern over this mandatory requirement, especially someone who might not be a Christian, but Cox said if anyone were to have such a conflict, participating churches are instructed "to tell them up front that this is what's going to happen; this is what we're going to be sharing."

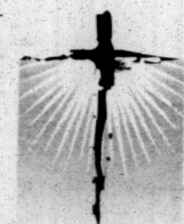
Some Upward programs also break at halftime of the Saturday morning games for a mid-court Christian testimony from an adult athlete.

Youth participants and their parents, regardless of their faith, should not be caught off-guard by Upward Basketball's Gospel focus, Cox said.

In fact, he said, the curriculum given to each player upon registration "provides the devotions and the lessons that we're trying to teach them and those kinds of things."

"We give that [curriculum] to the child so that the parents can know ahead of time what we're going to talk about ... We don't want anybody to get caught off-guard or be uncomfortable with what Upward's trying to teach," Cox said.

The curriculum, which is included in a "Player Kit," contains one Bible and one basketball playbook," according to the Upward website.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

NAMB nabs Telly awards

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — Eleven broadcast and video productions by the North American Mission Board (NAMB) have been named winners or finalists in the 23rd annual Telly Awards competition. More than 11,000 commercials, films, and video projects competed against a high national standard of excellence for two award levels — the silver "winner" award and the bronze "finalist" honor. Two productions by the Fort Worth, Texas-based FamilyNet and one by NAMB's Alpharetta-based electronic media team were recipients of the highest-level Silver Telly. In Alpharetta, producer Wolf Schumacher and editor Roger Mahr received a Silver Telly for *The Cross or the Crescent* — a video production examining Islam in the United States and how it compares to Christianity. At FamilyNet, producer Gayla Golden won for the Country Crossroads television show, while producer Trish Ragsdale won for "The Ones Left Standing" — a musical tribute to the rescue workers responding to the Sept. 11 terrorist attack on New York that aired on *At Home - Live!* Ragsdale also received a Bronze Telly for *At Home - Live!* Other Bronze Telly-winning producers at FamilyNet included Chris Graham for an episode of *The Call* titled *Looking for Love*; Bernie Hargis for *We Shall Not Be Moved*, a documentary on the role of the churches in the civil rights movement; and David Hill, for the Ricky Skaggs concert video *Soldiers of the Cross*. Alpharetta winners of the Bronze Telly included two segments of *E-ssentials* for the On Mission Church, a bimonthly package of short video clips designed for use in worship services as sermon illustrations and in other settings. Producer Cheryl Collins won for *Love Never Fails. Do You?*, while Paul Wynn produced *Finding Christ in Crisis*. Producer Tony Hudson won Bronze Telly awards for two promotional videos, one for the *FiSH!* campus evangelism strategy and another for the Philadelphia Spirit: Let Caring Ring Strategic Focus Cities outreach effort.

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Looking back

10 years ago

W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas, declares that Baptists have overcome liberals. Speaking in Saks, Ala., Criswell says, "The liberals now are a very small minority. Fundamentalists finally succeeded in purging liberals from positions of power in the Southern Baptist Convention."

20 years ago

Three Mississippi Baptist choirs have been chosen to perform at the Baptist pavilion at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn. Participating churches include First Church, Oxford; Woodland Hills Church, Jackson; and the Mississippi College Choir, Clinton.

50 years ago

U.S. President Harry S. Truman likes First Church of Washington, D. C., because "the preacher always treats me as a church member and not as the head of a circus. I do not go to church for show," said the blunt-spoken leader of the free world.

Women's leadership spotlighted at meeting

Deadline set for summer missions

ALPHARETTA, Ga. (BP) — High school and college students interested in applying to serve as summer missionaries through the North American Mission Board (NAMB) have until April 20 to submit applications, according to the entity's missionary mobilization team. In 2001 the entity partnered with state Southern Baptist conventions to place more than 1,400 college students as student summer missionaries, while an additional 124 served through the Sojourners program for high school students.

This year NAMB and partner state conventions hope to place 1,600 students in settings that include Strategic Focus Cities outreach efforts in Seattle and Philadelphia, small towns, and resort settings.

Applications for summer missions service can be completed online at www.answerthecall.net. For more information, students can contact the Missionary Mobilization Team at (800) 462-8657 ext. 6461 or email call@namb.net.

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Not even a power failure could disrupt the Women's Leadership Consultation at Southeastern Seminary (SEBS) in Wake Forest, N.C.

The power went out during the conference's mission-focused International Fashion Show, hosted by Bobbye Rankin, wife of International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin, but after a few candles were lit, the show and the conference went on before the lights did.

The conference, sponsored by the Seminary Women's Fellowship, featured teachers and speakers from within the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) and throughout the United States, with the theme of "Holiness: Making the Faith in Your Heart the Heart of Your Life."

Dorothy Patterson, professor of women's studies at Southeastern and wife of the seminary's president, Paige Patterson, said the Feb. 1-2 gathering was not a retreat; rather, it was a focused training seminar with an enrollment limited to 300 people.

"Our goal is to take the leadership from among women and equip them," she said. "We're trying to minister to women in our churches as well as on our campus."

The venue for the consulta-

tion rotates among the SBC's six seminary campuses, and this is the second leadership consultation Southeastern has hosted on its Wake Forest, N.C., campus.

Southeastern has been a pioneer in the area of academic women's studies through its master of divinity degree with a focus on women's studies.

The seminary also has a Women's Certificate program so that women who can't commit to a full master of divinity program can gain knowledge of the Word of God and also practical training in women's issues.

This year's consultation had a dual focus: the Word of God and missions. In addition to general sessions featuring an exposition of a biblical passage, workshops also focused on biblical exposition. Then on Friday, two events highlighted global evangelization: the fashion show and an International Buffet dinner.

The show spotlighted clothing from the "Life of a Missionary Woman."

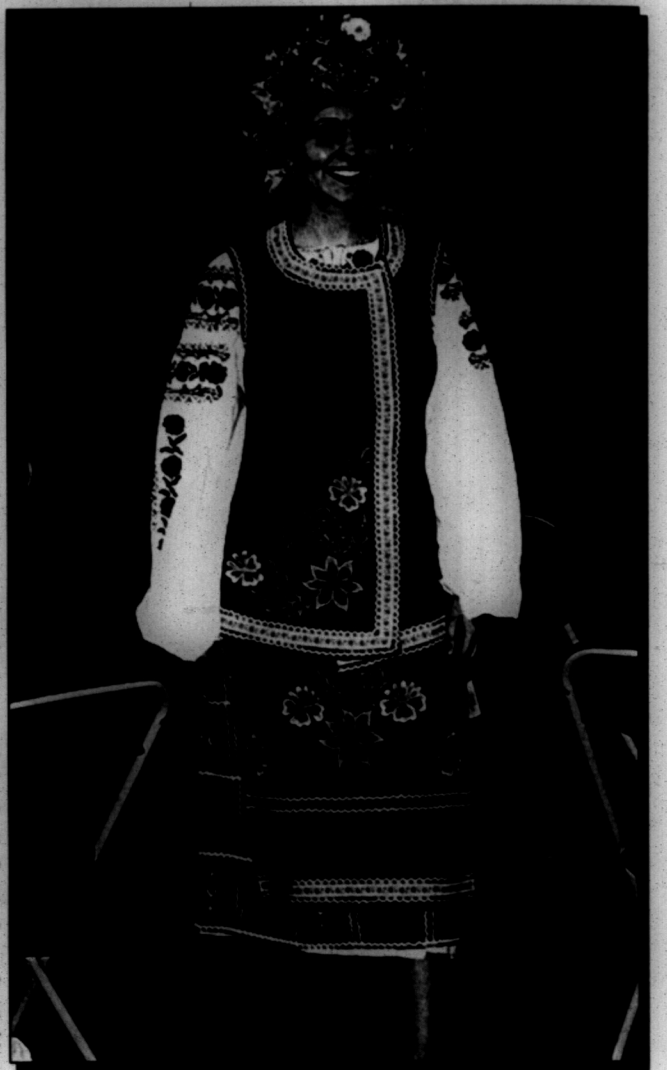
The buffet dinner was put together by Eva Greenham, wife of Southeastern professor Ant Greenham, and featured courses from all over the world.

Each session also featured a testimony from a woman who had been through difficult experiences, a segment titled "In the Line of Fire."

The keynote speaker for the event was Nancy Leigh DeMoss, a popular speaker on women's issues and host of the daily radio program "Revive Our Hearts," which is heard on more than 250 stations nationwide.

The conference also is held in conjunction with a networking event hosted by the wives of the SBC seminary presidents in which wives of leaders from across the convention gather to report on women's issues.

"We share with each other what we're doing," Patterson said. "It's a woman-oriented fashion show at the Women's Leadership Consultation. (BP photo)"



UKRAINIAN FASHION — Kristina Bulzan models a traditional Ukrainian dress during a mission-oriented fashion show at the Women's Leadership Consultation. (BP photo)

SYAP suit affirms religious expression in school

DEMING, N.M. (BP) — Deming (N.M.) Public Schools, under order of a U.S. District Court Judge, has a new policy for student expression and association.

It has been in force since January, but in one of those odd twists of law and parliamentary

procedure, has not yet been adopted by the school district.

Because a federal judge's signature is affixed to the policy, the result of a settlement of a suit filed by a Deming High School student, any question over student expression or association would be handled under the new

policy — but the Deming Public Schools' Board of Education listed the policy for a first reading on its Feb. 19 agenda.

It is scheduled for adoption at its March 14 meeting.

The suit arose from last September's See You At the Pole (SYAP) gathering, sponsored locally by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

Posters displayed by the Deming chapter, at behest of district legal staff, were censored. That prompted a suit by Regina M. Bishop, captain of the Deming FCA huddle and a member of First Church in Deming.

The suit alleged violations of First Amendment free speech and freedom of religion guarantees, of the Equal Access Act and of the 14th Amendment.

The posters the FCA wished to display contained the phrases "Taking a Stand for Christ," "I Kneel Before the Father" and "We Bow Down."

The posters eventually displayed on campus had the words "We Bow Down" partially covered by a strip of paper on which was written "Fellowship of Christian Athletes."

Federal Judge Bruce D. Black signed the consent order and dismissal in January, while retaining and continuing jurisdiction to enforce terms of a stipulation reached between the district and Bishop, the latter represented by Alliance Defense Fund of Scottsdale, Ariz.

"Praise God," Bishop said of the agreement. "It contains more than what the suit was about. I'm very pleased with the policy."

"It better defines procedures under which students may operate on campus," said Deming High principal Eric Cress.

It is in line, he and District Superintendent Hector Madrid said, with latest federal court rulings and case law.

"The single most important change," plaintiff's attorney Benjamin Bull of the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) said, "is that the school can no longer discriminate against student speech because it's religious ... on the grounds that it's in religious forums."

"If the students are allowed to put up signs on campus — if any students are allowed to put up signs on campus — the school cannot censor speech on the grounds that is religious," said Bull, of the ADF.

"For the first time, it recognized the constitutional right of students to engage in religious expression. The policy makes a correct constitutional distinction between official government speech on the one hand and student speech on the other."

Previously, Bull said, that either didn't exist in district policy or was so blurry, no one understood it.

Reprinted with permission of The Deming Headlight.

IMB: BGCT 'manufacturing crisis'

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — "Activists" who orchestrated a Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT) executive board vote Feb. 26 are "manufacturing a crisis where none exists," an International Mission Board (IMB) leader has charged.

The Texas board voted to create a "transition fund" to assist Southern Baptist missionaries who they think might resign in protest over IMB President Jerry Rankin's request that they affirm the 2000 edition of The Baptist Faith and Message.

The Texas board's action was based on false accusations of "creedalism" made by activists unhappy with the conservative direction of the Southern Baptist Convention, said Larry Cox, IMB vice president for mobilization.

"We regret that activists in the Baptist General Convention of Texas have chosen to misrepresent what is happening between Southern Baptist missionaries and their leadership," Cox said. "They are manufacturing a crisis where none exists."

"These activists are falsely saying that missionaries are being forced to change their beliefs to conform to a document they do not agree with. They claim missionaries are 'under attack' by their own leadership. They claim Jerry Rankin has broken a promise to missionaries

and that they are 'for the first time' being required to affirm a 'manmade' doctrinal statement rather than the Bible.

"None of those accusations is true," Cox said. "It is compelling rhetoric used by people who already are willing to believe the worst about Southern Baptists today."

Asking missionaries to affirm the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message is not a reversal of IMB policy, like some critics have complained, Cox said.

"Requiring missionaries to affirm The Baptist Faith and Message has been the board's practice for decades, even under the administration of Keith Parks," Cox said.

Parks, who served as president of Southern Baptists' overseas missions board from 1980 to 1992, is chairman of the subcommittee that brought the recommendation to the executive board.

Southern Baptist missionaries have always been free to disagree with The Baptist Faith and Message, Cox pointed out.

"I know our missionaries. I served Southern Baptists overseas for 18 years," Cox said, "and I believe that the majority of our missionaries are willing to testify to Southern Baptists as often as needed that they share the same core convictions that Southern Baptists hold."

"WIGGLE TAILS"

After I preached in one of our churches recently, a man came up, shook my hand, and thanked me for helping them get the "wobble tails" out of their hearts. Unsure of what the man was talking about, I replied, "Sir?" He said, "You have helped us get some of the 'wobble tails' out of our hearts."

I stood there looking somewhat bewildered, not quite comprehending what he was talking about, as he continued, "You do know what 'wobble tails' are, don't you?"

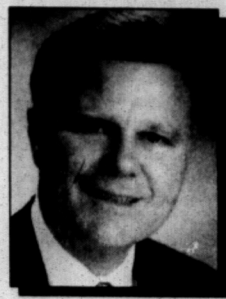
"Yes sir, I do," I replied. "I'm sure it's not the scientific name, but 'wobble tails' are those little creatures that live in stagnant water that eventually become mosquitoes."

I can remember as a kid, before I could even read or write, finding "wobble tails" in puddles of water or in some pan out in the yard. I would watch them as they would scurry about in the water. I guess "wobble tails" in themselves are harmless, but left alone in the stagnant water they will hatch out into testy, even disease-carrying mosquitoes.

That's what the brother was talking about as he explained to me that "wobble tails" don't live in running water and when the blessings of God begin to flow in your heart and overflow from your heart, the "wobble tails" have to go! He was absolutely on target and I was grateful to know that something the Lord had provided that week had enabled some people to get their "wobble tails" flushed out.

As I thought about the insight my Christian friend had shared with me, I realized that I had seen "wobble tails" get in my own heart. I was even able to classify some of them. Maybe you have recognized some "wobble tails" in yours or someone else's heart.

• **There is the "wobble tail" of pettiness.** This "wobble tail" gets us focused on little, insignificant, trivial matters. At



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

times, the spread of this "wobble tail" has become epidemic among Baptists. Once it hatches in our hearts and multiplies, the "wobble tail" of pettiness will literally cause us to move from one little thing to another, making each one a major issue.

Baptists will fuss over the color of carpet, placement of a piano, cutting of a tree, and even whether or not to plant a tree. I have known of believers getting crossed up with each other over literature, songbooks, flower arrangements, and even whether or not to have record boards hanging in the sanctuary.

It must have been "wobble tails" of the pettiness variety that got into the hearts of James and John when they were worrying about where they were going to sit in the Kingdom. The same strain of "wobble tails" is evident in some folks today when they realize somebody got in their seat at church — the pettiness "wobble tail!"

• **There is the "wobble tail" of puniness.** The pettiness "wobble tail" deals with small issues; the puniness "wobble tail" simply makes people small. We all are capable of being small in the

way we act and react, as well as the way we treat each other. We can be puny!

I have seen grown people act like preschoolers — men and women being so childish that they act out their immaturity, their puniness, by not even speaking to each other! It appears as though Jesus is trying to show us the "wobble tail" of puniness when he doesn't stop the story of the Prodigal Son with his arrival at home.

No, there was another person involved — a small-spirited, puny elder brother who was peeved and miffed because his brother came home. He was so small he could not see the big victory that had taken place. His self-righteousness was so large that he had no room in his heart for his brother to be restored. He needed the puniness "wobble tail" washed from his heart.

• **There is the "wobble tail" of pleasantness.** Literally, this "wobble tail" can infect your heart and without you even knowing it, nothing, absolutely nothing, satisfies you. Nothing is pleasant.

I once was talking to a man who was going over his list of most recent complaints about

the church. As he went from one bellyache to the next, I finally stopped him and simply asked, "Have you ever found one good thing about our church?" He answered, "Well, absolutely! There are a lot of good things about our church." I said, "Name me one." He thought for a moment and literally could not come up with one good, positive thing about the church. I don't think he even realized that he had lost all the joy of the pleasant things that God was doing in the midst of his people. He was infected with the "wobble tail" of pleasantness.

How do you get rid of "wobble tails" in the church? The flow of God's wonderful spirit, like water rushing through our hearts, can rid us of "wobble tails." All the "wobble tails" will die and no longer be a threat as the wonderful flow of God's spirit moves through our hearts. We will become new people because these vile little creatures will no longer infect us.

"Wobble tails," like sins, do not just stay in their formative shape. They grow, change, expand, and become even more harmful. That is the reason little sins must be quickly dealt with by the grace and power of God. David's great sin began with just a look. Samson's tragic fall started as just a little teasing game. Peter's great shame began as the simple dismissal of a little girl's inquiry.

Take a holy moment, even now, and allow the flow of God's spirit to wash out the "wobble tails" in your life!

LifeWay offers free report

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Church leaders now have the opportunity to experience Ministry Insights behavioral assessment at no cost. LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is offering one free Insights on-line assessment to each SBC church. Pastors are invited to use the complimentary evaluation to learn more about the many ways the Insights family of tools can meet various ministry needs. The on-line survey takes 10 minutes to complete, and produces an immediate, in-depth report. The free test is located at www.lifeway.com/insights.

The Ministry Insights report is one of five on-line assessments available from the LifeWay Insights family of products. Family Insights consists of both parent and teen versions to provide concepts that will build understanding and blend differences between parent and teenager.

Tenn. author encourages readers to banish boredom

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Are you just plain bored and feel your life has no purpose? If so, Ed Rowell, teaching pastor at First Church, Franklin, Tenn., suggests you should refocus on "winning at life."

Rowell, author of a new Broadman & Holman book, *Go The Distance: 21 Habits and Attitudes For Winning At*

Life, says people need to run the race of life with the finish line clearly in mind.

Divided into 21 chapters that focus on individual "winning" habits, Rowell's book pushes readers to discover their God-given purpose in life, work toward achieving it and find lasting satisfaction in their choices.

"Every pastor has had the experience of sitting with someone who knows they are dying and listening to that person express remorse and guilt over the life they neglected to live," Rowell said. "I've walked out of those situations begging God, 'Please let me live in such a way that I can die with minimal regrets.'"

Rowell said his book isn't a how-to manual for life, though he does offer insights and suggestions to readers based on his own life experiences.

"It is for people who are searching for a purpose," Rowell said of his book. "It is for people who are bored with their jobs, bored with their marriages, bored with their churches."

Boredom is the inevitable result of life out of focus, he said. "As I wrote *Go the Distance*, I prayed that God would use it to give believers

of this generation a clear focus on his purposes and banish their boredom. Beyond that, I continue to ask him to use this book to transform pew potatoes into intensely fit, thoroughly trained and wholly committed spiritual warriors."

Each chapter focuses on a specific issue, such as discipline, learning to say 'no' and building character, and can be a useful discipleship tool, he said.

While the book doesn't tell people how to live their lives, Rowell said he hopes it helps them grow spiritually and win at life by accomplishing God's goals.

"Success is not about my agenda, my plans or my priorities," Rowell said. "I gave all that up when I surrendered to Christ. That's what it means to let him be Lord of my life."

Broadman and Holman is the trade publishing division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, headquartered in Nashville.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD



First Church, Kosciusko, dedicated the Son Building on March 10 at the morning worship service, followed by open house in the afternoon. Formerly occupied by the Sunflower Food Store, the multi-purpose building has been recently renovated to provide a kitchen, prayer room, banner workroom, storage, special friends and drama classroom, and large assembly room. Youth Discipleship Now Weekend was the first function held in the building.

Easter Sunday services at Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, will include sunrise service at 6 a.m.; Sunday School, 6:45 a.m.; breakfast, 7:30 a.m., and morning service will begin at 8:15 a.m.

A Day in God's Laundry Mat, a conference for women, will be April 20 at First Church, Louisville, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The featured speaker will be Lisa Leavell of Jackson. Included are three mini seminars, lunch, and praise and worship. For ticket information, call the church at (662) 773-6246.



Leavell

additional information, call the church at (601) 854-5306.

In the Shadow of the Cross will be presented by the choir of Daniel Memorial Church, Jackson, March 29 at 7 p.m. For additional information, call the church at (601) 376-4100.

Old Union Church, Shannon, will have special Easter services on March 31. Church service will be at 8 a.m. followed by Sunday School at 9 a.m. Kenneth Kelly is pastor.

The Arise Tour featuring Newsong, Greg Long, and Johnny Hunt, will be in concert at First Church, Gulfport, 7 p.m. on March 28. For more information contact the church at (228) 863-8501.

Tylertown Church, Tylertown, will celebrate its centennial, 1902-2002, on May 19 with Founder's Day. Sunday School will be held at 9:45 a.m. and worship at 11 a.m. Michael W. Glenn is pastor.

Leesburg Church, Morton, will present Bow the Knee, a dramatic musical for Easter, at the Christian Life Center, Morton. The dates and times are Saturday, March 23, and Sunday, March 24, at 7 p.m. For



TeamKIDs of New Bethel Church, Carrollton

TeamKIDs (pictured) participating in the Christmas pageant at New Bethel Church, Carrollton, were Amanda and Jessica Shelton; Katy and Lindsey Ricks; Leighanne and Kimberly Parker; Clara, Laura, and Justin Elliott; Eric Goss; and Alana Lowery.

The Passion Play, depicting Christ's crucifixion through his resurrection, will be presented by New Liberty Church, Calhoun County, at the Pittsboro Multi Complex Center on March 30 and 31 at 7 p.m. For additional information, call Pete Gregory at the church, (662) 682-7275.



The GAs of Morgan Chapel Church, Golden Triangle, built a replica of their church for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO). The church goal was \$2,500. The GAs collected and gave \$2,000. The total received was \$4,100. Pictured with the gingerbread house are Misty Lewis, Whitney Morgan, and Mae Morgan. Ben Yarber is pastor.

LMCO goal surpassed

Union Chapel Church, Shannon, had set a goal of \$600 for Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The grand total received was \$1,013. Angels were placed on the tree for each \$20 given. The children and youth became involved filling quarter collector cards totaling \$5 each and some collected enough to place an angel on the tree.



The deacons of Arkadelphia Church, Bailey, honored their widows with a Valentine Banquet on Feb. 8. "The deacons showed their servant's hearts as they waited the tables and then sat and ate with the ladies," said John Koch, pastor.

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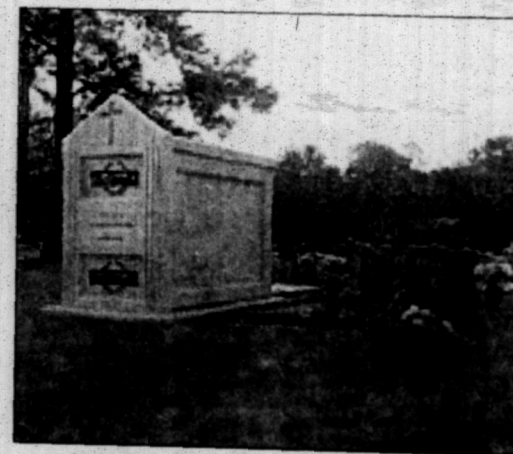
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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 21, 2002

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Lad. Crusader Day



2002

Central Hills Baptist Retreat
Kosciusko

April 20, 2002
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cost: \$4
Bring a sack lunch.
(Drink will be provided.)

Register Early! DEADLINE: APRIL 12
Come and meet our missionaries

For more info, call Men's Ministry Department,
1(800)748-1651 or in Jackson, (601)292-3335.

Preaching & Worship Conference

Highland Baptist Church
Jackson, MS
April 20-21, 2002

Featured Presenters:
Bill Hardin & Bill Clark

For more info, call the Church Administration - Pastoral Ministries Department
at 1(800)748-1651 or in Jackson, (601)292-3305,
or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

For Children and Youth STATE BIBLE DRILLS 2002

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
MONDAY April 8	Biloxi, FBC Batesville, FBC	2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
TUESDAY April 9	Greenwood, FBC Brookhaven, FBC	2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
THURSDAY April 11	Saltillo, FBC (Churches inside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union County and Tishomingo Association) Tupelo, FBC (Churches outside Lee, Pontotoc, Itawamba, Union County and Tishomingo Association)	2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
FRIDAY April 12	Starkville, FBC Louisville, FBC	2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
SATURDAY April 13	Clinton, FBC (Churches inside Metro, Rankin and Warren Associations) Richland, FBC (Churches outside Metro, Rankin, and Warren Associations)	9:00 a.m.-noon 9:00 a.m.-noon
MONDAY April 15	Meridian, FBC Petal, Petal-Harvey BC	2:30-4:30 p.m. 2:30-4:30 p.m.
TUESDAY April 16	Laurel, FBC	2:30-4:30 p.m.
SATURDAY April 20	Selection Tournaments Jackson, Alta Woods BC	

Just for Youth

REGISTRATION

Registration for State Bible Drills held on weekdays will not begin before 2 p.m. We do not ask that children be taken out of school so registration at weekday drills will remain open until 4:30. So that parents and others coming to watch the children drill will know the schedule, no groups will begin drilling before 2:30 p.m.

Registration for State Bible Drills held on Saturday morning will not begin before 9 a.m. Morning drills will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Call your Baptist associational office for the date and location
for your Associational Drill.

Church Drill Packets are available upon request.

For information contact Don Hicks or Harvey Ellis, Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department, Phone: (601)-968-3800 or 1(800)748-1651 or E-mail: hgellis@mbcb.org

STATE SENIOR ADULT LEADERSHIP LAB "Reaching and Ministering to Younger Seniors"

FBC, Vicksburg, 601-636-2493

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

9 a.m.-4 p.m.

\$5 payable at registration

Cliff Harris

Cliff Harris, Christian Action Commission, Dallas, Tex.
Music: Becky Brown, Utica, Miss.

9:00 a.m.	Registration	
9:30 a.m.	Session I.....	Glenn Shows, MBCB
	Music.....	Becky Brown
	"Combining Younger Seniors In Ministry"	Cliff Harris
10:30 a.m.	Break	Refreshments provided by Mississippi Baptist Foundation
11:00 a.m.	Session II	
	Music.....	Becky Brown
	Mission Ideas.....	Toni Wimberely, NOBTS, New Orleans
	"How to Minister to Younger Seniors".....	Cliff Harris
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	Lunch is on your own
1:30 p.m.	Session III	
	Disco Duck	Charles Martindale
	Minister with Senior Adults, FBC, West Monroe, La.	
	Resources for Younger Seniors	Glenn Shows, MBCB
2:30 p.m.	Session IV	
	Music.....	Becky Brown
	"Christian Ethics on Death"	Cliff Harris, Dallas
3:30 p.m.	- Adjourn	

• DISPLAYS • BOOKSTORE • HANDOUTS

For more info contact:

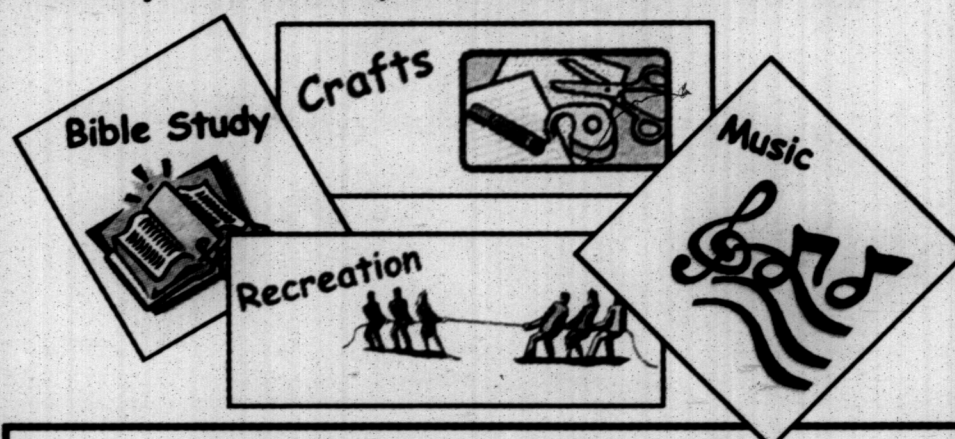
Glenn Shows, Discipleship and Family Ministry, (601)292-3373 or 1(800)748-1651

**Saturday
May 11**

Spring Fling Special Ministry Adults

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Camp Garaywa

Cost is only \$12 per person. A preregistration fee of \$5 is necessary by May 1, 2002. The balance will be due at registration. One adult counselor for every five participants of the same sex is required. For additional information, contact the Sunday School Department, 1-800-748-1651.



REGISTRATION

Church name _____ Phone _____
Church address _____ City _____
Person completing form _____ Phone _____
Total # attending _____ Total preregistration fee enclosed \$ _____

Please mail to: Sunday School Department
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205



Christian Performing Arts Festival

April 5-6, 2002

Country Woods Baptist Church, Jackson

Cost \$25 (includes T-shirt, snacks, lunch
on Saturday and incredible seminars)

CONFERENCES

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- Directing (beginners and advanced)
- Illusions
- Choreography
- Technical Support

Clowning

- Clowning (beginners and advanced)
- Leading a Clown Troupe
- Balloon Sculpting
- Clowning Skills

Puppets

- Puppetry (beginners and advanced)
- Leading a Puppet Team (beginners and advanced)

Church Recreation

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- New Ideas
- Creative and Fun Classes in the Areas of Socials, Senior Adults, Children and General Recreation

Youth Ministry

- Training Youth to be Leaders
- Training for Youth Mission Trips
- Spring Training...Tips for Building Better Players and Stronger Teams
led by Gary Permenter

For more information, please contact the
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
Discipleship and Family Ministry
Department
(601)968-3800 or 1(800)748-1651

**Special Guest:
Wesley Brainard**

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Worship Leader*



*Jake Gullledge
Music Worship Leader*

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Mississippi
College

For more info contact: Harvey Ellis
Discipleship and Family Ministry
(601)292-3286 or 1(800)748-1651

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCE SHOWCASE

6:30-9:15 P.M.

The Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, along with LifeWay Christian Resources, is presenting an overview of discipleship materials. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to learn more about valuable resources from our knowledgeable leaders.

For more information, please contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department: (601)968-3800 or 1(800)748-1651.



Reach For The Right Tool

OUTREACH EVANGELISM TOOLS TOUR

APRIL 22, 23 and 25 • 2002

Learn about the different outreach tools that are available for your church!

April 22 Longview Heights BC Olive Branch	April 23 First BC Starkville	April 25 Main Street BC Hattiesburg
---	------------------------------------	---

All conferences are from 7-9 p.m.
and will feature Round Robin sessions covering:

Target Audience:

Church Leadership: pastors, associate pastors, ministers of education, Sunday School directors, Discipleship Training directors, outreach and evangelism directors

Association Leadership: associational missions directors, evangelism directors, Sunday School directors, Discipleship Training directors

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For more information, contact
John Clendinning, Sunday School Department
Phone: 1(800)748-1651 or (601)968-3800 in Jackson
E-mail: jclendinning@mbcb.org

Mississippi Baptist Area Senior Adult Choir Festivals



May 7, 2002
Duke University BC
Jackson

May 9, 2002
Emmanuel BC
Greenville

May 16, 2002
FBC, Hattiesburg

SCHEDULE

8:30 A.M.
REGISTRATION

9 A.M.
FESTIVALS BEGIN

For more information,
please contact the
Church Music
Department
at (601)968-3800 or
1(800)748-1651

"Sharing the Song of Jesus"

Please Note Location Change!

2002
Young Ringers
Festival
Saturday, March 23
Oak Forest Baptist Church
Jackson



For more information, please contact the Church Music Department at (601)968-3800 or 1(800)748-1651

Pray this day for...

March 22-April 4, 2002

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17) "Never give up on God, who always answers our prayers. Sometimes the answer is 'Wait' or 'No.' ... Why should we continue to pray hopefully in the face of profound disappointment? Because invariably we can learn and grow in the process."

SOURCES OF STRENGTH by Jimmy Carter

Today prayer watchmen in Bogota, Colombia, begin a 40-day prayer emphasis in praying for spiritual revival and renewal. Pray that God will create a spirit of humility and brokenness among believers in Bogota. Plead that God would convict and save any unregenerate church members.

Easter - Today we can celebrate the astounding truth that Jesus has conquered Satan, sin, death, and hell. Praise God that He offers forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and a place with Him forever in heaven to all who receive Him by faith.

In Russia, the legislature is considering a new law that would allow the majority religion of an area to be its official religion. Whether Orthodox or Islam, the majority would be the official religion. Ask the Lord to keep the door open for the spreading of the gospel in Russia.

An 11-year-old MK (missionary kid) in Harare, Zimbabwe, has befriended A., a new student. A. is an Iranian Muslim. In a school devotional time, the MK helped him find Genesis. A. had never read the Bible before, but seemed quite eager to learn. Pray that God will save him during this time at this Christian school.

Baptist representatives serving on the Deaf Team in Czech Republic request: "Pray for the leaders of our summer camp that will be held in August as they continue to meet monthly in preparation for this summer. Begin praying now for the kids who will have the opportunity to go to camp and hear Bible stories."

A worker is planning for a volunteer team to come to a Last Frontier country and lead business classes for nationals. Pray that the "right" contacts be made to facilitate this endeavor. Pray for God to call business leaders from the U.S. to go present the materials and for nationals to respond to the Savior through these seminars.

Pray for pastor N., a recent seminary graduate in Ghana who is working to reach the Northern Peoples in Kumasi for Christ. Ask the Lord to increase his faith as he quits his teaching job and pastors the Northern congregation full time. Pray that God will reveal Himself to pastor N. as the Provider.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS; (2) The Lebanon Sunni Muslim Team writes: "The Lord has opened doors for us to an orphanage. They will let us teach needlework to girls, ages 13 to 16, and instruct them in how to live their lives. Pray for wisdom as the Lord opens these doors."

Modo Team members in Southern Sudan write: "Many have prayed for the oral-based Bible school among the Modo people. Students completed a month of ministry in December. Some spent all-night sessions with their people, singing and telling the Word of God. Pray for the students as they graduate in June."

Muslims consider submission to God the highest virtue and end every statement of intent with, "if God wills," and strive to accept circumstances of their lives as God's will. Yet, most reject the greatest act of submission to God, the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. Pray for Muslims to recognize Christ as the One who died for their sins.

For: (1) Disaster Relief Training Update, Central Hills, Kosciusko, 2 p.m., (MM); (2) GA Mother/Daughter Overnight, Garaywa, (WMU); (3) Pray for Prime Minister Anatoly Kinakh of Ukraine (southeast Europe, north of the Black Sea).

For: (1) Young Ringers Festival, Park Place BC, Brandon, (CM); (2) Joel Thrasher, associational ministry evangelism in Taylors, S.C., is busy with community projects, feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, directing world changers, and leading mission groups. Pray for Joel and his wife, Kathy.

Each Saturday is a day for prayer for the needs of China's poor and outcasts. Pray for loving ministry to HIV/AIDS patients, whose number quadrupled in Guangdong in the 1998-2000 period.

Pray for the Theological Education by Extension (TEE) students in Mozambique whose studies are often hampered by swollen rivers. Pray that the various study groups will be able to meet consistently and profit from their studies.



MAY

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AT CAMP GARAYWA



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June 10-14
June 17-22
July 22-26

ACTEENS CAMP

July 8-12

Cost is \$115 per person for GA and Acteens

For information or camp packet, contact Robin Keels in the WMU at 1(800)748-1651 or (601)292-3322 or E-mail rkeels@mbcb.org

Please take a moment to drop a birthday greeting and word of encouragement to our Missionary Kids!

1-89 MR. BRYAN K. HOLYFIELD

Parents: Michael & Patricia Holyfield, Church Planting

10-83 MISS KIMBERLY J. HEARON

Parents: Thomas & Bonnie Hearon, Student Evangelism

11-92 MR. ANDREW S. BRASWELL

Parents: Larry & Alicia Braswell, General Evangelism

16-96 MR. MICAH J. PEACOCK

Parents: Kevin & Brenda Peacock, Theological Education

20-88 MR. JOHN R. MCCALL

Parents: Dennis & Margaret McCall, Agriculture

23-79 ADAM L. GRAVES

Parents: Edgar L. & Marilyn L. Graves, General Evangelism

24-91 MISS LAURA M. PURL

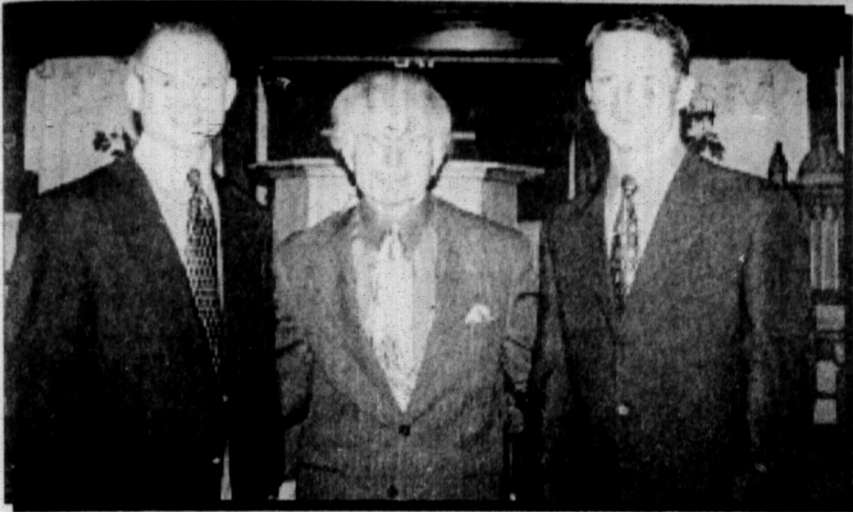
Parents: John & Amy Purl, Financial Administration

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Child's name and parent's name
International Mission Board
P.O. Box 6767
Richmond, VA 23230-8767

HOUSE TOPS

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Fowler, Sumrall, and Thurmond

Brett Fowler (left) and **Brian Ray Gates**, chairman of deacons; **Kelly and wife Kathy**; and **T. W. Henderson**, former pastor, who gave the charge to the candidate. **Tom Sumrall** (center) is the pastor.



Crozier

Galilee Church, Puckett, recently ordained **Gerald Kelly** as deacon. Pictured are **Danny Berry**, pastor;

Nelson Crozier has retired from the active pastorate and is available for pulpit supply and as an interim pastor. Crozier can be contacted at (601) 264-9086.



Berry, Gates, the Kellys, and Henderson

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Arnold Davis of Louisville, 66, died Feb. 24. Davis served as pastor of churches in Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi. Churches in Mississippi included New Salem and Friendship, Golden Triangle Association; Fellowship, Chickasaw Association; Murphy Creek, Shiloh, Macedonia, West End, Yellow Creek, Winston Association. He was serving **Hinze Church, Winston**



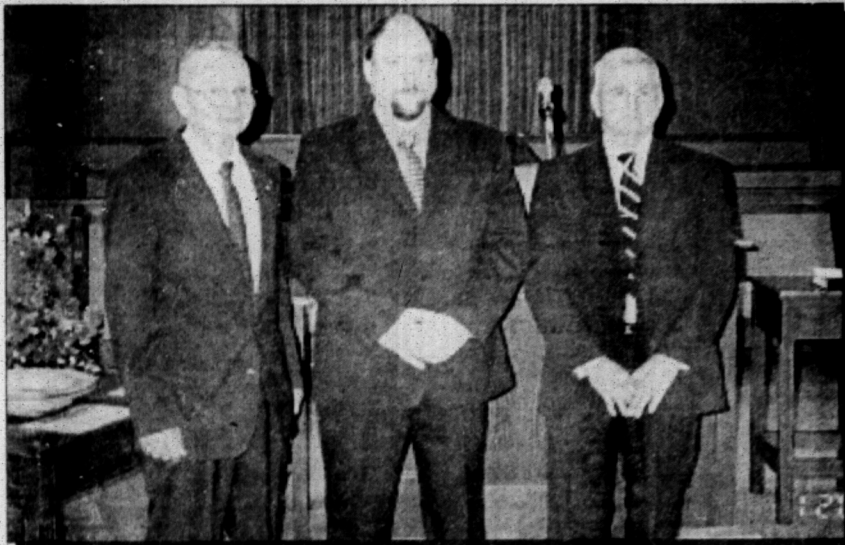
Davis

Association, at the time of his death. He was also a chaplain for **St-Home Hospice**. Davis is survived by his wife **Bessie**; sons, **Halton Jr.**, pastor of **Friendship Church, Sturgis**, and **Tim Davis, Helena, Ala.**; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Terrica McBride was recognized on March 10 at **Utica Church, Utica**, for having 14 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School as of March 1. **John Ed Snell** is pastor.



Lucille Farris (pictured) is holding a lap quilt that was made for her by the **Gerald Riddle Group of WMU** at **First Church, Batesville**. She taught this group for a number of years. "Each member of the group made a block in the quilt and put their initials on it. Farris is 87 years old and had been a member of WMU all her life. She laughs and says that her mother took her to WMU meetings before she was born," said **Myra Simmons**, a member of the WMU.



Mt. Zion Church, Waynesboro, recently ordained **Roy Lee**, **Ronny Trigg**, and **Rudy Lee** as deacons. Pictured (from left) are **Roy Lee**, **Trigg**, and **Rudy Lee**. **S. Payton Myers** is pastor.

REVIVAL DATES

Big Level, Wiggins: April 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; **Tommy Mitchell**, evangelist; **Dionne Williams**, music; **David Perry**, pastor.

Tylertown, Tylertown: April 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; **Lowell Ingram**, Mathiston, evangelist; **Steve Walker**, Crystal Springs, music; **Michael W. Glenn**, pastor.

Spring Creek, Philadelphia: April 7-10; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; **Jim Futral**, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; **Ronald Fulton**, music; **Wayne King**, pastor.

Concord, Yazoo City: March 31-April 3; Sunday, 11 a.m., noon meal, and 1:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; **Ed J. Deuschle**, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; **R. L. and Beth Sigrest**, Yazoo City, music; **James F. Yates**, pastor.

Morgantown, Natchez: April 7-11, Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 11:45 a.m. and 7 p.m.; **Ron Lynch**, speaker; **Carl Smith**, music; **E. L. Wright**, pastor.

Bethlehem, Forkville: March 31-April 3; Sunday, Easter cantata led by **Jim Beemon**, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; speakers for Monday are **Danny Lanier**, Meridian, evangelist; and **Tues. and Wed.**, **Sid Newell**, Baton Rouge, La.

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1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

Academically talented students and faculty members who have made outstanding contributions in promoting academic excellence at their respective institutions were recently honored by the Mississippi

Legislature at the 15th annual Higher Education Appreciation Day, Working for Academic Excellence (HEADWAE). Representing Mississippi College (MC) at the HEADWAE luncheon are, seated from left: William Waller III, student honoree; and Tom Williams, faculty honoree. Standing is Lloyd Roberts, MC interim president.

Blue Mountain College Board of Trustees recently convened and met in the new Fisher-Washburn Hall. Pictured (from left, front row) are Harold Hankins; Mary

Louise Merrill; Kathrine Beaty; Marie McAlpin; Faye Pepper; Faye Sanders; Linda Gholston, (chairman of the board); and Betttye Coward, president; (back row)

A. D. Spratlin; Ray Sartor; Thad Moore; Morgan Whitfield; Mike Staten;

Blue Mountain College Board of Trustees

secretary; John W. Smith; Dan Lewis. Not pictured: Bobby Modisett; Carl White; and James Martin, vice-president.

STAFF CHANGES

since 1992 as an available interim minister, twice as interim music director.

Mt. Olive Church, Coila, has recently called **Keith Ramage** as pastor. Ramage formerly served on staff at Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie. He received his education at William Carey College and is presently enrolled at the Mississippi College campus of New Orleans Seminary.

Duane Jensen is the new music director and his wife Ruth is pianist at Mt. Olive

Church, Coila, effective Feb. 10. He formerly served as pastor of Carrollton Church, Carrollton.

Weir Church, Choctaw County, has called **Jim Pender** as pastor effective March 3. He previously served at Parkway Church, Scott County.

Emmanuel Church, Union, has called **Bill Hall** of Cuthbert, Ga., as pastor effective March 3. A native of Lake City, Fla., Hall has served in Alabama, Ohio, and Georgia. He received his education at Florida Baptist Seminary.

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CENTENNIAL SET

Editor:

Harmony Church, Laurel, will celebrate our 100th birthday the last week in April. Former pastors and ministers of music will conduct the services.

The services will be at 7 p.m. on April 24-26. Our worship service on April 28 will be from 10:30 a.m.-noon with dinner on the ground. At 1:30 p.m., there will be singing and entertainment to close out the day's activities.

All members and former members are invited and asked to bring old pictures and memorabilia. If you can't attend, we would love to hear from you and receive cards and letters to put on our display. The church's address is 3213 Ellisville Blvd., Laurel, MS 39440. Wade Rogers is pastor.

Anita Masters
Laurel

MINORITY RULES

Editor:

The February 21 editorial by William Perkins was both informative and disturbing. He quotes Jerry Rankin's letter: "Suspicion that there are IMB personnel whose beliefs are inconsistent with those represented by Southern Baptists," as the reason for asking IMB personnel to sign a statement approved by less than one percent of Southern Baptists.

There were less than thirty thousand messengers out of a

total of sixteen million Southern Baptists. That is less than one percent who voted for this controversial change, and yet Jerry Rankin is accepting this as a mandate to pressure people to either sign or resign.

This reveals how far he has moved from the Baptist principle of priesthood of the believer.

The greatest need among Southern Baptists is to develop a methodology for determining the majority consensus of beliefs instead of using a minority opinion as a mandate.

Technological advances in communication provide opportunity for state conventions and local associations to disseminate and collect information so that decisions made by administrative personnel would be consistent with those who provide funds that fuel convention endeavors.

The original purpose of the Baptist Faith and Message was to provide an incentive to search Scripture for the answers, but recent adoption of changes by a small minority has moved it very close to being the official creed that places it ahead of the Bible.

Ken Pickens
Tupelo

SHEEP ASTRAY

Editor:

Why all the hoopla over the woman called as pastor at Rivercrest Fellowship? Isaiah 53:6 has never been more in effect than today. As God spoke through Isaiah, we are like sheep. We go astray and turn to our own way and do as we want with no regard to the One whose stripes heal us.

This Rivercrest calamity only adds proof to the authority and

truth of the Bible. The Bible, God's written Word to man, is no longer the only authority to many professing Christians today.

Too many are listening to those who are preaching that our Christian experience supersedes what the Bible says and that the Bible is no longer completely necessary; it is our experience with Christ that is number one because now the Holy Spirit speaks directly to our spirit and tells us things that are not in the Bible.

This is primarily coming from the camp of neo-evangelical charismatic beliefs that major on two gifts of the spirit — tongues and healing — and preaching of women in the position of pastor. Its advertising agent is the Trinity Broadcast Network. Many Christians are falling prey.

What a pity for all who trample the blood of Jesus under their feet and put him to open shame.

God made no provisions for women pastors or preachers in his Word to man. One day a Bible translation will satisfy the wishes of man and omit much of God's truths.

I believe it is called "humanism."
Charles S. Rodgers Jr.
Hazlehurst

HEARTS WARMED

Editor:

For the past forty years our family has been a part of Mississippi Baptists. Since Glen's death on January 26, so many people in that larger family have shared our grief and encouraged our hearts. Thank you for the many expressions of love and support through your calls, cards, and visits. Over the past several weeks we have celebrated Glen's life. We have been reminded of many individuals and churches throughout Mississippi who contributed greatly to his life through the fellowship and friendship they

offered. Our hearts have been warmed and comforted by our Baptist family.

Ella Williams and family
McComb

THANKS, MISS. BAPTISTS

Editor:

On February 9, 2002 in Grace Church, Odessa, Ukraine, we had a meeting dedicated to the re-election of oblast ministers. On behalf of many brothers and sisters in the Mississippi Baptist churches, small gifts were given to each minister who was present at this meeting. With this act, our friends from Mississippi expressed their appreciation to the life and work of our ministers.

I would like to use this opportunity to express our sincere gratefulness to Mississippi Baptists for participating in God's work in Ukraine. May God reward you by His grace. "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 4:19)

Bronislav Zilkovsky
Senior Pastor Odessa Oblast
Odessa, Ukraine

GET ON WITH MISSION

Editor:

What kind of revival would we experience if the energy expended fighting over who can become pastors and what is acceptable music in worship was channeled into evangelism? There is a spiritual rescue mission to accomplish: winning the lost while we still can. If, as most of us believe, time is short, shouldn't we be focusing on the spiritual rescue effort and leave the enlisting (calling) of rescue team members (ministers) up to God?

When the lost world asks us for guidance, do they find us preoccupied with whether or not to sing from a hymnal?

Yes, issues are important, but we continue to have our focus distracted by issues. Meanwhile, Satan, the supreme terrorist, continues his daily attacks, and people die without Jesus daily.

Ironically, the political community offers us an example: focus on our efforts to defeat the enemy regardless of which side of the fence we're on. Enough infighting! Let us close ranks and get on with the mission!

Doug Warren, pastor
Shiloh Church, Vaiden



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

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BALLWIN BAPTIST CHURCH in West Saint Louis County, 25 miles from downtown, seeking full-time associate of music. Ministry will include additional responsibilities. Please send resume to: 15101 Manchester Road, Ballwin, Missouri 63011, ATTN: Personnel; email: ballwin@swbell.net; or fax to: (636) 227-3438.



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MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH in Potts Camp, Miss., is seeking a full-time or bi-vocational pastor. Church averages 40 in Sunday School. Please send resume to Bethany Baptist Church, P.O. Box 563, Potts Camp, MS 38569. Attn: Pulpit Committee.

MID-SIZED CHURCH seeking part-time minister of music at Steep Hollow Baptist Church, Poplarville, Miss. Two Sunday morning services plus Wednesday night services. Please call (601) 795-4638 or fax resume to (601) 795-4696.

CHURCH AVERAGING 100 in Sunday School seeks full-time minister of music and youth or bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

FIRST CHURCH, MCLAIN, is seeking a full-time pastor. Anyone interested in the position should send a resume to the Pastor Search Committee: First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 69, McLain, MS 39456.

MINISTER OF STUDENTS NEEDED. Full-time position. Send resume to: North Winona Baptist Church, 602 Alberta Drive, Winona, MS 38967 or fax to (662) 283-5004.

PARK PLACE BAPTIST CHURCH, PEARL/BRANDON, is seeking an interim pianist who is comfortable with blended services. Experience needed/multiple services. Call (601) 969-6282.

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STRONG RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH, Pinola, Miss., is seeking a part-time music director for two Sunday services. Call (601) 847-3292 for more information.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Fulfilling Jesus' Prayer

John 17:1-26

By Sandra Gunn

"Oh, how he loves you and me!" Of all things for Jesus to be thinking of immediately before being betrayed and then crucified — you and me! The world watches when great men die. The world wants to know how they react, what their last words were, and what place in history they will have. Jesus faced his oncoming death with thoughts of his true followers — not only those of that day, but of all of his future followers.

Jesus had been moving toward this moment for 33 years, and now the "hour has come." He and his disciples seemed to be moving toward Gethsemane from the upper room. He had spent some time teaching them great truths, and

now he turns aside to pray. We assume his disciples were within hearing distance, and we know that the Spirit used John to record the greatest prayer ever prayed.

This great prayer is three-fold: Jesus praying for himself, praying for his immediate disciples, and for his future followers. We will look at his petition for his future followers — you and me.

Oh, how glorious that Jesus prayed for me! Oh, how responsible I am for fulfilling that prayer! The main thrust of his prayer for us today is found in John 17:21. What kind of unity tied the Father and Son together? It was a deeply personal relationship of love and obedience. Jesus prayed



Gunn

that men would love each other because they love him.

Jesus did not say that we have to look alike, dress alike, act alike — only to love each other. We have to strive to be like him. The closer we get to Jesus, the closer we get to being glorified as he was glorified.

As I write this, I am sitting on the grounds of the Missionary Learning Center, owned and operated by the International Mission Board. This is a secluded setting nestled in the rolling Virginia countryside near Richmond.

It is truly hallowed ground, for this is the place that harbors missionaries-to-be as they prepare to enter another culture across the world to tell others the story of Jesus.

In the apartment next door, I hear the noises of a family with three small children who, having been commissioned yesterday, are packing to leave for their assigned people

group. This truly represents exactly what Jesus was asking for us from the Father: that we would be one.

This place represents how we Southern Baptists have joined together in the Cooperative Program that helps send missionaries to the ends of the earth.

Just as we Christians have succeeded in many ways to love each other, we have failed in many others. We have bickered and fought. We have split and gone separate ways. We have watered down the message. We have even turned some away by our unlovely actions.

The truth is that Christians will never be organized the same way in their churches. We will never worship God in the same way. We will never even believe the same things. For some reason, in this passage, Jesus didn't even address these issues. He only asked the Father that we be one in love — particularly as he and the Father are one in love. We have

erected barriers between each other, and only the love, which God's Spirit gives to us, can tear down those barriers.

This love and unity, which Christians show to each other, must be the means by which the world is convicted of the truth of Christianity. We are not only one in Christ. We must be one with each other. Jesus asked the Father to give us this oneness — we cannot achieve it ourselves. We must be willing for God's Spirit to work within our hearts to help us demonstrate this oneness. When we accomplish this, the oneness becomes a testimony to the world that Jesus is the Son of God, and that God sent Jesus into our world so that the world may believe.

Jesus prayed that we would love each other based on a relationship between heart and heart. Real unity between Christians is a supernatural happening to which only God will receive the glory!

Gunn is a member of First Church, Biloxi.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Demonstrate reconciliation

Ephesians 2:11-22

By Robin Brumfield

Welcome to another study of Ephesians. Today we will look at a good biblical word — "reconciliation." What do we really mean by reconciliation? Biblically, reconciliation means "to change from enmity to friendship."

This lesson emphasizes Christians demonstrating reconciliation with God and with other Christians, and challenges Christians to have reconciliation in their everyday lives.

Through Christ, God reconciles people to himself and to one another. He expects believers to demonstrate that reconciliation in their relationships. People today are separated by barriers of all kinds — racial, social, economic, and even religious. Often they do not recognize these barriers or they do not see the significance of them.

God wants his people to demonstrate that Christ has removed all such separating influences from their lives, and they are reconciled to him and to one another.

This lesson is divided into four topics. The first topic is from Ephesians 2:11-12 and is titled, On the Outside.

Prior to experiencing salvation, these Gentiles were alienated from God and from the Jews. Today, every unbeliever is alienated from God and Christians. People without Christ are separated from God and need to experience reconciliation with God.

The second topic is from Ephesians 2:13 and is titled, Brought Near. It is important to note that "brought near" is contrasted to "far away" in this verse. These figures of speech



Brumfield

refer to spiritual distance from God and from others.

Through the death of Jesus Christ these believers had been "brought near" or reconciled to God and to God's people. The emphasis is that in his death Jesus destroyed all barriers to relationships between Jews and Gentiles. For us today, this means that Christians are to demonstrate that no barriers exist between each other, and they are on good terms with one another.

The third topic is from Ephesians 2:14-18 and is titled, On Good Terms. "Barrier" (v. 14, "partition," KJV) is specifically the "hostility" (v. 15, "enmity," KJV) between races. Jesus has broken down the barrier between the races.

Notice that Jesus tells us twice in this passage (vv. 14, 15) that he is our "peace." This happened through Jesus' death. Jesus' death made possible the reconciliation of different races and at the same time made possible reconciliation to God.

It is important to note that reconciliation with God and other people is to be expressed in "this one body" (v. 16), which is the church. The emphasis in this passage is that in his death Jesus made possible the reconciliation of both Jews and Gentiles to God.

In applying this to our lives, we see that those who are in Christ are to demonstrate by their actions that they have been reconciled to God. There is an old saying that is very true — actions speak louder than words.

The fourth topic is from Ephesians 2:19-22 and is titled, Togetherness. There are several word pictures in this passage to emphasize the reconciliation that believers are to demonstrate.

The first word picture is "fellow citizens" (v. 19) which describes Christians in a political setting. The citizenship is in the family of God. Notice in verse 19 that believers "are no longer strangers, and aliens." When believers are reconciled with God they are citizens with him.

At the end of verse 19 look at

the word picture "members of God's household" which describes Christians in a domestic setting. Paul moves from talking about believers being reconciled in an impersonal political setting to being reconciled in a close, intimate family setting. When we are reconciled with God we are adopted into his family as sons and daughters. He is now our Father.

There are many architectural word pictures ("built on the foundation" (v. 20), "the whole building is joined" (v. 21), "a holy temple" (v. 21), "being built together" (v. 22), and "dwelling" (v. 22). These word pictures drive home the point that we are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ "the chief cornerstone" (v. 22).

God lives in the church "by his Spirit" (v. 22), which is evidence its members have been reconciled to God and to one another. Remember, actions speak louder than words, so demonstrate that you are reconciled to God and one another through your actions.

Brumfield is interim pastor of Goodwater Church, Forest.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

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All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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THE VILLAGE VIEW



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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Author pushes 'God-centered' courtship

House OKs protection for infants

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. House of Representatives again has approved a bill providing legal protection to fully delivered babies, even when abortion is intended. The House approved by voice vote March 12 the Born Alive Infants Protection Act, H.R. 2175. The bill clarifies a newborn child fully outside his mother's womb is a person to be protected under federal law. The Senate has yet to act on the bill this year, although it approved the measure as an amendment to other legislation last year.

The bill was first proposed in 2000 after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a state law barring partial-birth abortions and after congressional testimony was heard describing an abortion method in which newborns who survive are allowed to die. The procedure, which nurses testified is used at Christ Hospital in Chicago, is called live-birth abortion. In the method, delivery is induced and if the baby survives the procedure, the child is left unattended to die.

Bibliocipher

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WR ZC FYDKY MYCD
HDM CBRIRVDIR, QRY
XYE WIRCRIY, CBXC
CBIDMOB CBZN QXY ZN
LIRXABRE MYCD HDM
CBR VDIOZPRYRNN DV
NZYN.

XACN CBZICRRY: CBZICH-

RZOB

Clue: O = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John Three Sixteen.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Last summer, Christianity Today featured Joshua Harris as "The Man Who Ignited the Dating Debate."

Who can argue with the assessment? With nearly one million copies of his first book *I Kissed Dating Goodbye* (Multnomah, 1997) in the hands of Christian singles, Harris has perhaps more than anyone popularized "courtship" as a God-centered alternative to traditional dating relationships.

To classify Harris' ministry as one-dimensional, however, would be a misinformed judgment. Harris currently directs New Attitude, a ministry to young adults, and serves as a pastor at Covenant Life Church in Gaithers-

burg, Md. His passion, as exhibited even in his books on dating, is for young adults first and foremost to be passionate about God and the local church.

New Attitude and Covenant Life Church are affiliated with PDI Ministries, a church planting and support ministry that offers guidance, counsel and oversight to approximately 50 churches. Harris also hosts the national New Attitude conference each January in Louisville, Ky., and several regional conferences throughout the year.

Following is an interview with Harris by Southern Seminary student Bryan Cribb during the Louisville New Attitude conference.

Cribb: Joshua, most people identify you with the issue of dating and rightly so. Your first and most famous book sold close to a million copies. Your second book, *Boy Meets Girl* (Multnomah, 2000), was popular as well. You obviously struck a chord with the young adult Christian audience.

Harris: I struck something (laughing).

Cribb: What was it about the books that really hit home for thousands of single Christians out there?

Harris: The books came at a time when a lot of Christians were questioning their practices when it came to dating — seeing a lot of problems, experiencing a lot of heartache. And these books became sort of the spark that lit what was already there ready to be set aflame. I think that they provide a biblical perspective. ... I think by God's grace a lot of people want that. They want to be challenged. They want to be asked to step up to a biblical standard, and so I think that's part of the reason that they've been successful. ... It's just been God's blessing on them.

Cribb: I get the feeling, though, that the message of Joshua Harris in these books is misunderstood if people think they're just about dating?

Harris: I think you're right. I spoke with someone just this weekend who came up and said, "You know, I read your book. And what I got out of it was not about dating and relationships. It was about loving God more than anything else." I love it when I hear that because that is the ultimate purpose behind what I seek to do.



FAREWELL TO DATING — Joshua Harris, author of *I Kissed Dating Goodbye*, is speaking about more than a very strategic point in their lives — making decisions about what they are going to live for, making decisions about career and education and marriage and all of these really life-changing decisions. And we wanted to bring them together and challenge them primarily in three areas — to love God's Word and sound doctrine, to be passionate about pursuing his presence in worship ... and then third to challenge them to see the importance [and] the centrality of the local church in God's plan for demonstrating his kingdom [and] demonstrating his gospel to the world. ... Noticeably absent is the issue of dating and courtship, which has confused some people.

We have had people who have showed up expecting a singles' conference on dating, and they never hear the word mentioned. What I love are the people who say, "I came here for dating. But I realize what I really needed to hear was about the grace of God and about the cross and about how I can change." And that in turn changes their whole approach to dating and relationships and so on. We wanted to hold up God as the most important thing, as the highest priority.

Cribb: So New Attitude is a subset of PDI. Many people only know of PDI through its worship music, if at all. Can you give a brief synopsis of PDI and the relationship of New Attitude to it?

Harris: PDI stands for "proclaiming God's grace, developing local churches and influencing the world with the Gospel." It is a church planting and support ministry that is led by a team of pastors that offers guidance, counsel, and oversight to approximately 50 churches primarily in America, Mexico, Canada, and Great Britain. ... New Attitude became the young adult division of PDI. And so, in addition to the church planting and support, PDI does conferences across the country for different churches for leaders and for pastors.

Cribb: When you developed your vision for these conferences, did you see them as responding to a particular need or lacking in the local church?

Harris: Well, we don't view ourselves as fixing some big problem ... but definitely what we do is motivated by wanting to address things that we think a lot of college students aren't necessarily thinking about. So many college students today are not interest-

Cribb: So most people know you through these books, and they hear about your New Attitude conference, and then they come to hear you expecting to find out how they can fix their dating life. Well, if they came to this conference, they heard about holiness and discipline. But I don't think people are disappointed, because I see people walking away changed. This leads me to a question about your current ministry and what you have tried to do in these conferences.

Harris: When we started New Attitude three years ago, we had a desire to affect college-age students who are at a very strategic point in their lives — making

ed in doctrine. Sadly, they've gone so far down the experience route — touchy-feely religion — that they don't have any stomach for sound teaching and the doctrines of grace and talking about justification and sanctification and sin and these kinds of things.

We think a lot of Christian students just assume the local church is something they'll go to, but there's no conviction, there's no biblical motivation behind that. It's just a cultural thing. So yeah, we do want to play a part in serving local churches. There are a lot of things that it's not easy for local pastors to say, but we can say that on their behalf and challenge these students to go back and get involved — and not only involved, but be committed to and active in their local church.

So we view New Attitude as a way to serve local churches. If it ever stops doing that, we'll shut it down. If it ever becomes something that takes people's energy away from the local church, we'll end it, because it is not an end in itself.

Cribb: I heard a message from you last night, and it was expository and rich in doctrine. A lot of times, people say that youth can't handle teaching like that. Do you think a lot of churches have sold their young people short?

Harris: Yes, I do, and I don't say that to be judgmental in any way towards anybody. My youth pastor back in Oregon built a youth group that was very entertainment-oriented. He had a huge group — hundreds and hundreds of students coming out. The band. The drama. The games. The activities. Not a lot of meat, to be honest with you. Not a lot of the Gospel being presented and a real call to holiness.

I love him. God used him in my life. But I would view that [style] as sadly too typical — a desire to entertain. I ran into him last year at the grocery store when I was home visiting. We started talking, and he started sharing with me how he's really changed his emphasis. He has his students reading Bible Doctrine by Wayne Grudem.

He said to me, "You know, you learn a lot as the years go by. You learn a lot of the things you do that seem so exciting and get everybody jazzed up really don't lead to lasting fruit." He's got these students now who are digging into the truth of God's Word. They're reading this systematic theology book. And they're just loving it. And the fruit of that is they're being evangelistic. They're sharing the Gospel. Kids are getting saved. That just brought me so much joy to hear that.

Cribb: Well, I know you have a busy schedule, but I would be remiss if I didn't ask you about dating though. What kind of special challenges await singles in the realm of dating, and what advice would you offer them?

Harris: There's a chapter in *Boy Meets Girl* called Courtship is a Community Project. I truly believe that a godly relationship — whether you want to call it dating or courtship — a relationship that is centered around God, that is pure [and] that is purposeful [and] clearly defined needs community. That starts in the local church.

So the counsel that I would give any single person ... is first make the local church a priority and build your relationship into that so that you're benefiting from the wisdom of your pastors, from your friends, from other families, so that that season of courtship when you're pursuing the possibility of marriage is surrounded by a multitude of counselors, a multitude of settings [and] a multitude of people who are able to both give advice on the relationship, as well as just encourage you in it.